GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3124
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2002
IMPORT OF CRUDE PALM OIL
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether crude palm oil has been imported from Indonesia;

(b) if so, the details of crude palm oil imported from Indonesia during last three years and in current year; and

(c) the steps proposed to import the minimum quantity of edible oil to save the domestic oil industry?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (S SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The details of crude palm oil imported from Indonesia during last three years and in current year are as under:-

Year	Qty. Tonnes
1998-99	350
1999-2000	64093
2000-2001	644509
2001-2002 (upto Sept.01)	401172

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

(c): Some of the steps taken/efforts made to increase the indigenous production of oilseeds and hence of edible oils are:-

(i) Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme is in implementation in 25 States covering 395 selected districts to increase the production of oilseeds/edible oils in the country.

(ii) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds was established in May 1986 for harnessing the best production, processing and management technology.

(iii) Intensification of research efforts for increasing production of oilseeds.

(iv) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower, exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, ricebran etc.

(v) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

(vi) Assistance for oil palm development.

(vii) Better incentive to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.

(viii) Use of indigenous oils in the manufacture of vanaspati to at least 25% of the production on a monthly basis has been made mandatory. Also higher use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati up to 30% has also been allowed. The objective is to incentivise the farmers in terms of better returns for their produce.

(ix) In order to harmonise the interests of domestic oilseeds growers, consumers and processors and to regulate large import of edible oils to the extent possible, the duty structure on edible oils is revised from time to time.